



Version 1.1
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Child Care

Family Liaison Playbook

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How to use this playbook

High-quality, affordable child care is a necessary component of a family's well being and stability. Education promotes children's development, learning and achievement. Child care can narrow socioeconomic, racial and ethnic inequalities by promoting parental employment and family self-sufficiency.

Many families struggle to meet the high costs of child care and many children lack access to quality child care settings. For families in households with incomes less than the federal poverty level, child care costs average 30% of their income. Parents without access to affordable child care may have to use less safe, lower-quality care in order to put food on the table. In some cases, parents may have to choose between work and child care.

This playbook will summarize resources to assist our families find high-quality, affordable child care and address these challenges. This includes federal/state financial assistance programs, local service providers and other useful information. Liaisons should understand their family's child care circumstances and needs and review the information contained herein to help address.

Child Care Program Resources

Resource name	Description of services	Engagement details	Contact information
<p>Child Care Resources, Inc.</p> <p>(contracted with Charmeck DSS)</p>	<p>Child Care Resources Inc. ("CCRI") is the go-to source for early care and education and school-age child care in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union, Rowan, and Stanly counties in North Carolina.</p> <p>CCRI Child Care Search specialist can provide information, referrals and subsidy information</p>	<p>There is currently no waiting list for child care subsidy for children ages 0-5. Currently is a waiting list for school-age children 6-12</p> <p>Must be resident of Mecklenberg County, employed 30+ hours per week or be in school 20 hours per week.</p> <p>Family income cannot exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.</p>	<p>Phone number: (704) 348-2181</p> <p>Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org</p>
<p>North Carolina Child Care Resource & Referral Council</p>	<p>Consumer Education & Referral (CER) Services will help guide you in finding quality child care that best meets the needs of your child and family. Consumer education and referral services help customers learn about early care and education and school-age child care programs that exist in their communities and become better informed</p>	<p>Similar resource as Child Care Resources, Inc. for families/needs outside of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union, Rowan and Stanly counties.</p>	<p>Website: www.childcarerrnc.org</p>

	consumers of these programs. Services are free and confidential for all families.		
<p>Boys & Girls Clubs of America</p> <p>Address: 1431 Elizabeth Ave Charlotte, NC 28204</p>	Organization providing child education programs and mentors. Offers in-person and virtual options.	BGCA is particularly helpful for finding child care options after regular school hours.	<p>Website: www.bgca.org</p>
<p>Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), also referred to as the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)</p>	<p>It is the primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies for low-income working families. It also provides funds to improve child care quality.</p> <p>They are collaborating with both national and state advocates to help with the creation and implementation of a new law.</p> <p>CCDBG is a critical piece of the federal-state early childhood continuum to ensure children from birth to age five are ready for school and success in college, career, and life.</p>	<p>Who This Program Serves: Families with children from birth to age 13 whose income is below 85% of the state median income. (Average \$50,808 annually for family of 3.)</p> <p>Percent Served Based on Eligibility: 15% of all children eligible under federal rules.</p> <p>Delivery Method: Eligible families can apply to the state's lead agency for a subsidy. Families who receive a subsidy may choose any child care provider that meets state health and safety requirements. In some states, providers receive a voucher or child care certificate from a parent. In others, they are paid directly through a contract with the state.</p>	<p>Phone number: (202-730-0943)</p> <p>Website: https://www.ffyf.org/</p>

<p>Head Start/Early Head Start</p>	<p>Head Start is a federally funded preschool program that provides comprehensive services to support the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of three and four-year-old children. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers.</p> <p>Federal funds go directly to local Head Start grantees.</p> <p>For FY 2015, Head Start served 23,088 North Carolina children. For FY 2015, Early Head Start served 5,147 children.</p>	<p>Eligible: Children from birth to age five from families with low income, according to the Poverty Guidelines published by the Federal government, are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services.</p> <p>Children in foster care, homeless children, and children from families receiving public assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income) are also eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services regardless of income.</p>	<p>Phone number: (1-866-763-6481)</p> <p>Website: https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1929</p>
<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</p>	<p>TANF is designed to help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that focus on parental employment and child and family well-being.</p>	<p>Eligible: To be eligible for this benefit program, applicants must be a resident of the state in which they apply, and a U.S. citizen, legal alien or qualified alien. You must be unemployed or underemployed and have low or very low income. You must also be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a child 18 years of age or younger, or • Be pregnant, or • Be 18 years of age or younger and the head of your household. 	<p>Website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/temporary-assistance-needy-families-tanf</p>

<p>Federal Funding Streams NC Early Childhood Financing Tools (nearlychildhoodfoundation.org)</p>			
<p>NCDHSS Child Care Subsidy</p>	<p>The Child Care Subsidy program uses state and federal funds to provide subsidized child care services to eligible families.</p> <p>Programs offered in North Carolina: Infant programs Toddler programs Preschool programs (2-3 years) Preschool programs (3-4 years) Preschool programs (4-5 years)</p>	<p>You may be eligible to receive child care assistance if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are working or are attempting to find work • You are in school or in a job training program • Your child is receiving child protective services • Your child needs care to support child welfare services or if your family is experiencing a crisis • Your child has developmental needs 	<p>Website: https://www.childrenofamerica.com/location-s-north-carolina.cfm</p> <p>Preschool in North Carolina: CHARLOTTE, NC 704-624-7171 2102 Ben Craig Dr Charlotte, NC 28262 MECKLENBURG COUNTY</p>
<p>MECK Pre-K</p>	<p>High-quality pre-kindergarten available to eligible children. It is County funded and free of charge.</p> <p>40 convenient locations in Mecklenburg county</p> <p>MECK Pre-K is free...Classrooms are located in four-and</p>	<p>Apply online: MECK Pre-K</p>	<p>Website: MECK Pre-K Mecklenburg County-funded Pre-Kindergarten Program</p> <p>Contact Information: (704) 943.9585 infor@MeckPreK.org FAX: 704.377.1824 Address: 601 E. 5th Street, #200 Charlotte, NC 28202</p>

	<p>five-star childcare centers and taught by licensed teachers and teacher assistants.</p> <p>Skills learned:</p> <p>Social & Emotional Skills: Children are encouraged to exhibit eagerness and curiosity as learners, participate as members of the class community, use words and communication with adults to manage conflicts and follow class rules and routines.</p> <p>Creative Arts: Children use art and materials for exploration and expression as well as participate in music experiences.</p> <p>Scientific Thinking: Children are encouraged to ask questions and investigate through active exploration and seek answers or solutions through active problem solving.</p> <p>Social Studies: Children are provided opportunities to better understand the role of self and others as members of families and communities, show an awareness of other cultures, and show an interest in caring for the environment.</p> <p>Technology: Children explore technology and its components and use age-appropriate software to support learning.</p>		
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<p>CMS – Bright Beginnings and NC Pre-K</p>	<p>Bright Beginnings Pre-K serves 3,240 eligible four-year-old students in 56 Charlotte Mecklenburg elementary schools. Eligibility for participation in the Bright Beginnings program is determined through a screening process. Children who demonstrate the greatest need are placed first. The placement process continues until all spaces are filled.</p>	<p>Your child must be age 4 on or before August 31 and live in Mecklenburg county. Your first step is to create an account in Scribbles. Please click Apply Now to begin.</p>	<p>Website: https://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/ci/pre-kservices/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Contact Info: (980 343 3000)</p>

The Learning Collaborative

To prepare underserved children and their families to succeed in school by providing a tuition-free, high quality preschool education through a unique partnership with our children, families, parents, staff and community.

We remove the barrier of poor school attendance by providing daily transportation to all children who need it.

TLC provides a healthy breakfast, a hot lunch and afternoon snack. From 8:00am to 2:30pm, Monday through Friday, the children are engaged in singing songs, sorting shapes, playing make-believe, reading stories, building towers

In place of paying tuition, TLC parents must volunteer a minimum of seven hours each month per enrolled child. These volunteer hours are often spent assisting in the classroom, lending library, office, or anywhere as needed.

For this reason, a targeted approach is used in selecting families. Priority is placed on under-served children from low income families. TLC is specially focused on first serving the children and families of the Grier Heights community in which we are located.

TLC screens all potential families using NC Pre-K application guidelines for

[The Learning Collaborative - Home \(tlccharlotte.org\)](http://tlccharlotte.org)

Phone number: (704 337 8076)

Address: 3241 Sam Drenan Road
Charlotte, NC 28205

	<p>and knocking them down – all activities that encourage cognitive growth</p>	<p>income eligibility and service priority status. We enroll those who demonstrate the greatest need and can fulfill family requirements. We seek to enroll families who, in general, are facing significant barriers to school readiness, such as living in a low income household, no high school or GED achieved by parents, maternal age <18, substandard housing, inadequate transportation, lack of access to high-quality preschool, and children with potential developmental delays.</p> <p>To be eligible for the NC Pre-K program, children must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be four years old by	
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		<p>August 31 and be eligible for kindergarten in the following year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be a resident of Mecklenburg County ● Meet the income requirements as set by the state of North Carolina. ● Children of active duty military families are also eligible. 	
<p>Charlotte Bilingual Preschool</p>	<p>Charlotte Bilingual Preschool (CltBP) prepares Spanish-speaking children for success in school and life by providing superior dual language early childhood education</p>		<p>6300 Highland Avenue Charlotte, NC 28215</p> <p>Charlotte Bilingual Preschool</p> <p>Phone number: (704) 535-8080</p>

<p>Lakewood Preschool Cooperative</p>	<p>Provides tuition-free, quality care and education to at-risk families in or near the Lakewood Community. This 5 star preschool prepares 3 and 4-year-olds for successful entry into kindergarten and focuses on family involvement.</p>	<p>Eligibility Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reside within mecklenburg county - live in a spanish-speaking household - child must turn 3 years old (or 4 years old) by Aug 31 - meet income eligibility - pre-enrollment form and required documents <p>Required Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proof of residency - copy of child's birth certificate - proof of income 	<p>HOME lakewood (lwpsc.org)</p>
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Tax Credits

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit - If you paid someone to care for a child or a dependent so you could work, you may be able to reduce your federal income tax by claiming the Credit for Child and Dependent Care expenses on your tax return. This Credit is available to people who, in order to work or to look for work, have to pay for child care services for dependents under age 13. The Credit is also available if you paid for the care of a spouse or a dependent of any age who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) - The earned income tax credit (EITC) provides substantial support to low- and moderate-income working parents who claim a qualifying child based on relationship, age, residency, and tax filing status requirements. It previously provided very little support to workers without qualifying children (often called childless

workers), but the American Rescue Plan (ARP) significantly expanded the credit for these workers through 2021.

By design, the EITC only benefits people who work. Workers receive a credit equal to a percentage of their earnings up to a maximum credit. Both the credit rate and the maximum credit vary by family size, with larger credits available to families with more children. In 2021, the maximum credit for families with one child is \$3,618, while the maximum credit for families with three or more children is \$6,728. The maximum credit for childless workers is \$1,502, roughly triple what it was prior to the ARP.

After the credit reaches its maximum, it remains flat until earnings reach the phaseout point. Thereafter, it declines with each additional dollar of income until no credit is available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[COVID] Are child care facilities open?

Yes. In Phase 3 Safer At Home, child care facilities are open with enhanced cleaning and screening requirements.

What factors should I consider when evaluating child care programs/facilities?

The most important factor is ensuring the child care program is licensed in North Carolina. All licensed child care programs, including homes are visited at least once per year by NC Division of Child Development & Early Education staff to make sure the program is in compliance with all regulations, including health and safety standards.

The NC DCDEE publishes a [brochure](#) which outlines useful questions you can ask to get a sense of the quality of child care provided in a particular Program.

Why are child care licenses ‘Star Rated’? Where can I learn more about the ratings (1 – 5 Stars) and what they mean?

The ‘Star Ratings’ allow child care programs to be recognized for providing higher quality care over and beyond minimum standards. The rating system and contributing factors are outlined on the NCDHHS [website](#).

How can I find licensed child care programs and camps in my area?

NC DCDEE website contains a [search engine](#) to find programs in your area. You can search by location and facility type, permit type, age, subsidized child care program eligibility and special requirements.

Transportation? - how to get them there...school bus systems, public transportation? other options, etc.

Contact Us

704-659-1833

Info@FamiliesForwardCLT.org

Revision History

Date	Version	Revision Summary
4/26/2020	V1.0	Initial draft